



US011217686B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Matsudai et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 11,217,686 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 4, 2022**

(54) **SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT**

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **16/995,039**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 17, 2020**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**  
US 2021/0296476 A1 Sep. 23, 2021

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**  
Mar. 19, 2020 (JP) ..... JP2020-050275

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**H01L 29/739** (2006.01)  
(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **H01L 29/7397** (2013.01)  
(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... H01L 29/7397  
USPC ..... 257/139  
See application file for complete search history.

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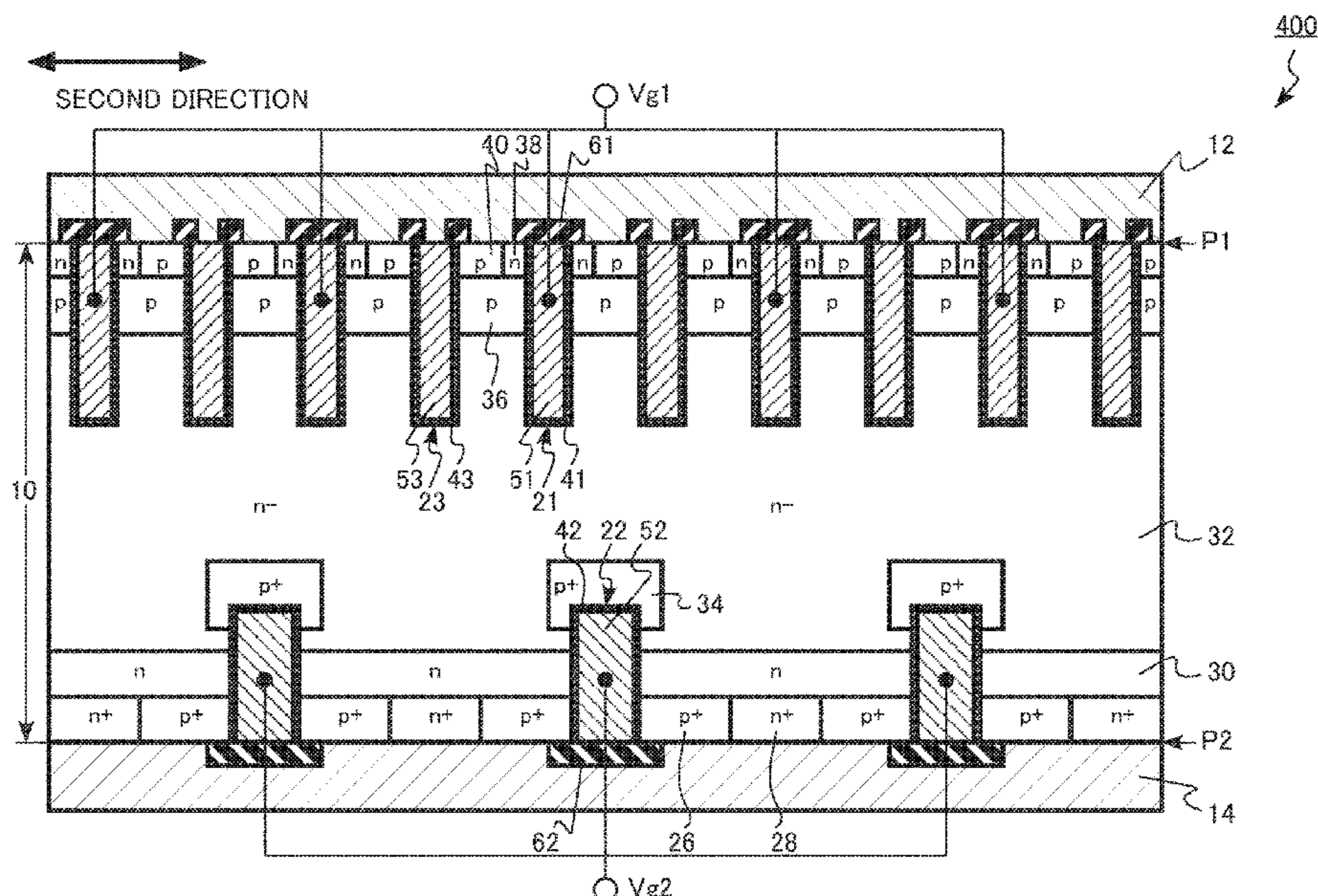
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A semiconductor device according to an embodiment including: a semiconductor layer having a first plane and a second plane, the semiconductor layer including: a first trench on the first plane; a second trench on the second plane; a first conductivity type first semiconductor region; a second conductivity type second semiconductor region between the first semiconductor region and the first plane; a first conductivity type third semiconductor region between the second semiconductor region and the first plane; a second conductivity type fourth semiconductor region between the third semiconductor region and the first plane; and a first conductivity type fifth semiconductor region provided between the second trench and the third semiconductor region in contact with the second trench; a first gate electrode in the first trench; a second gate electrode in the second trench; a first electrode on the first plane; and a second electrode on the second plane.

**10 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets**



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FIG. 1

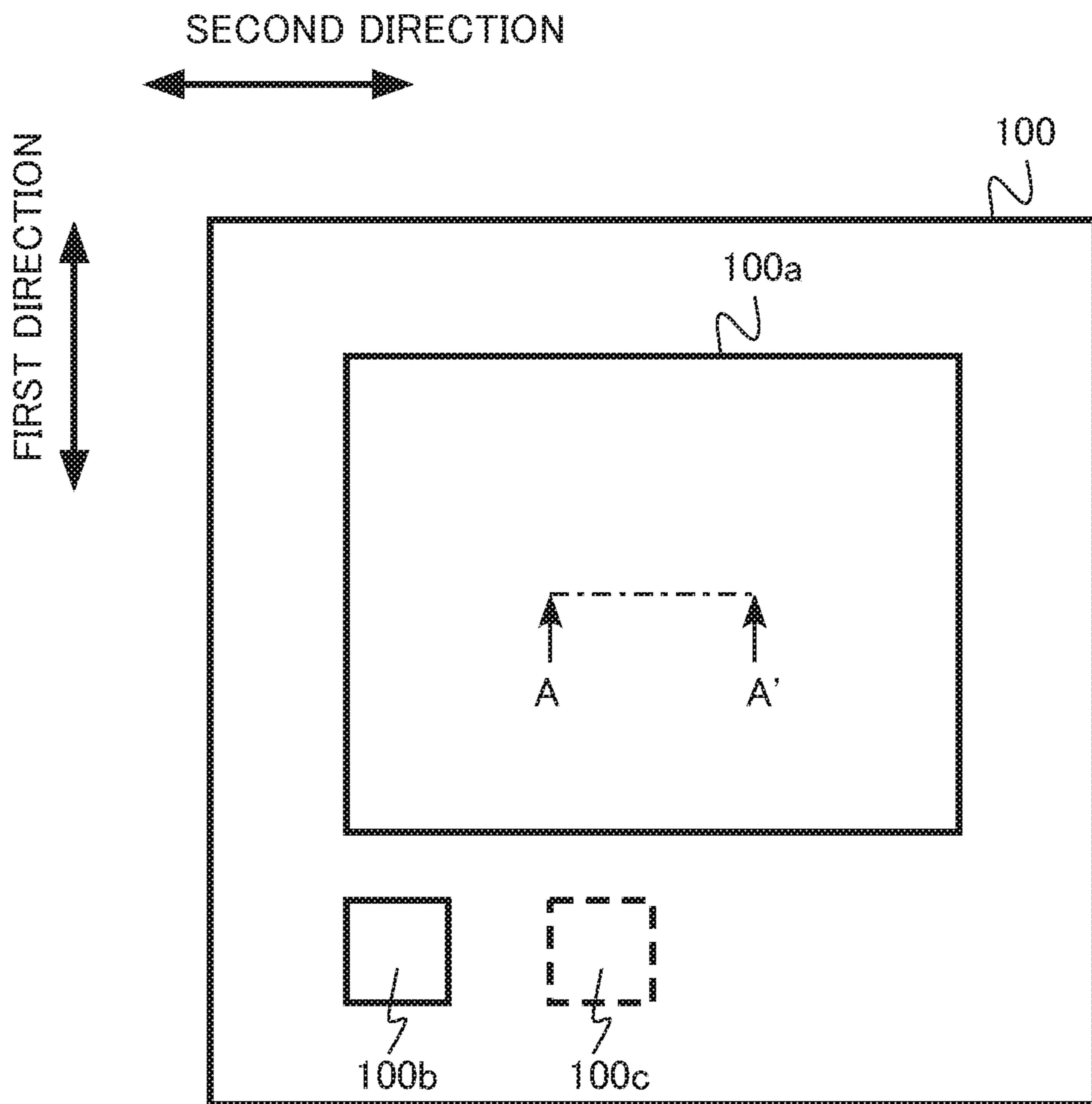




FIG.3

100 ↘

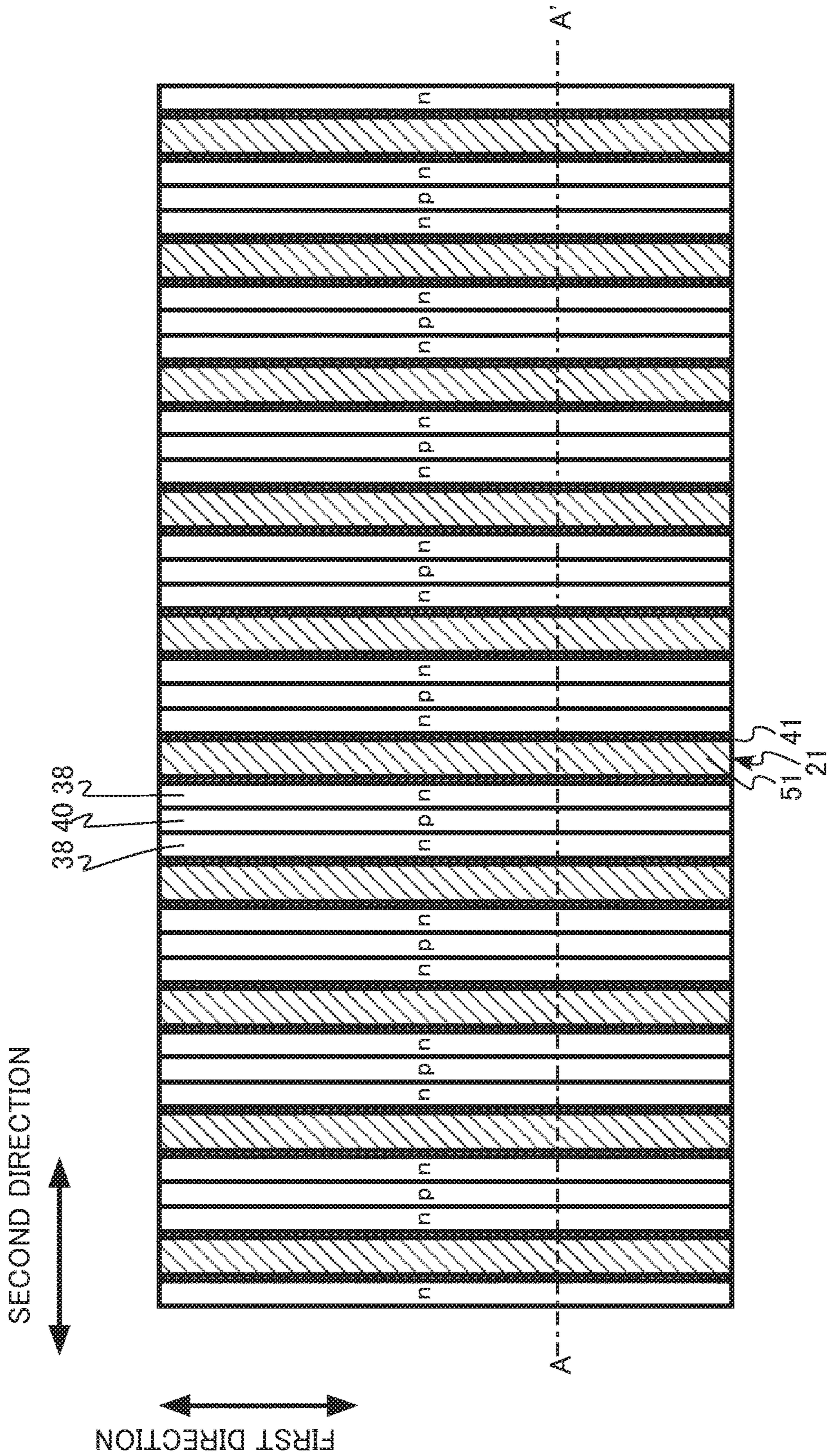


FIG.4

100

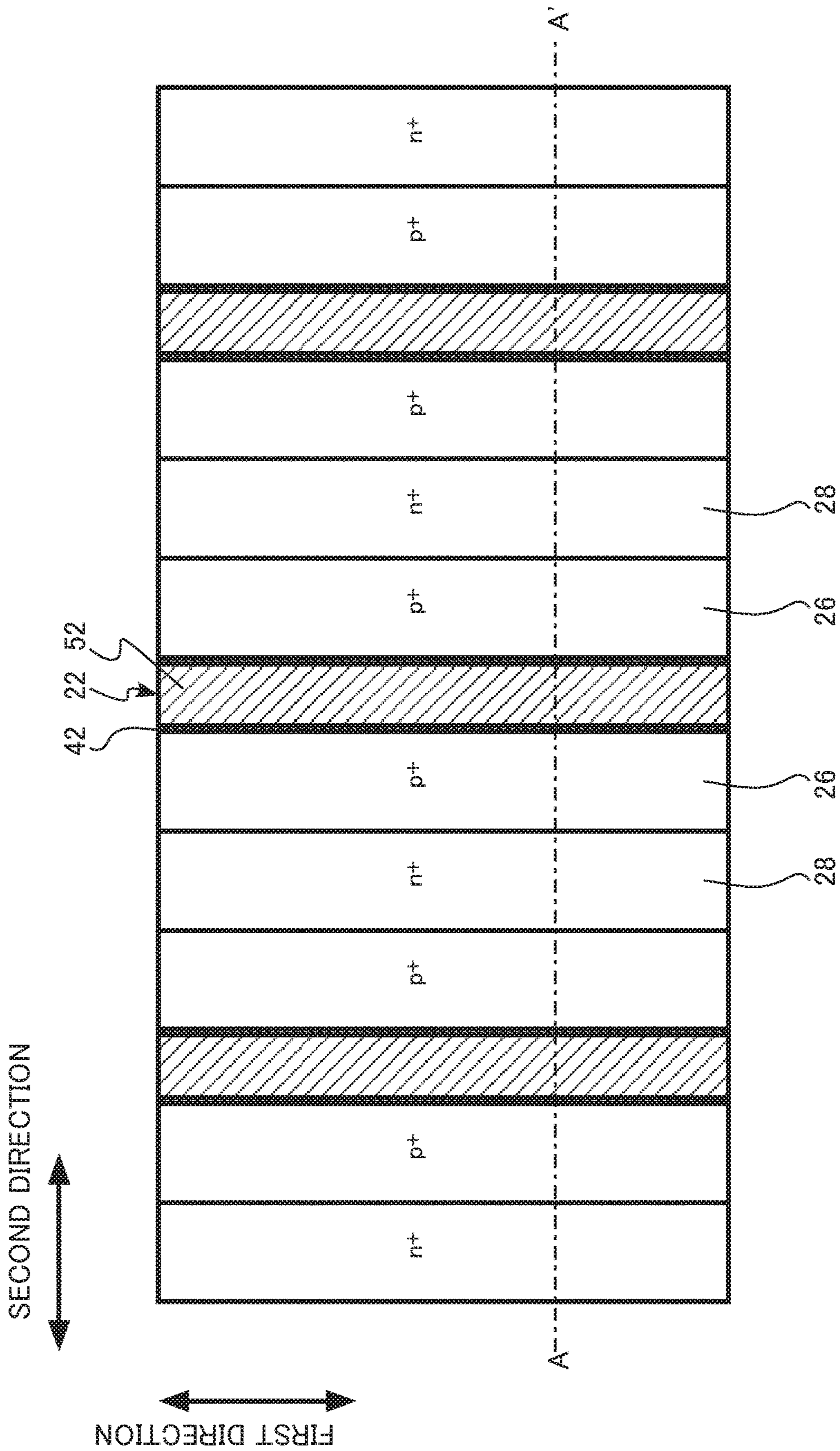


FIG.5

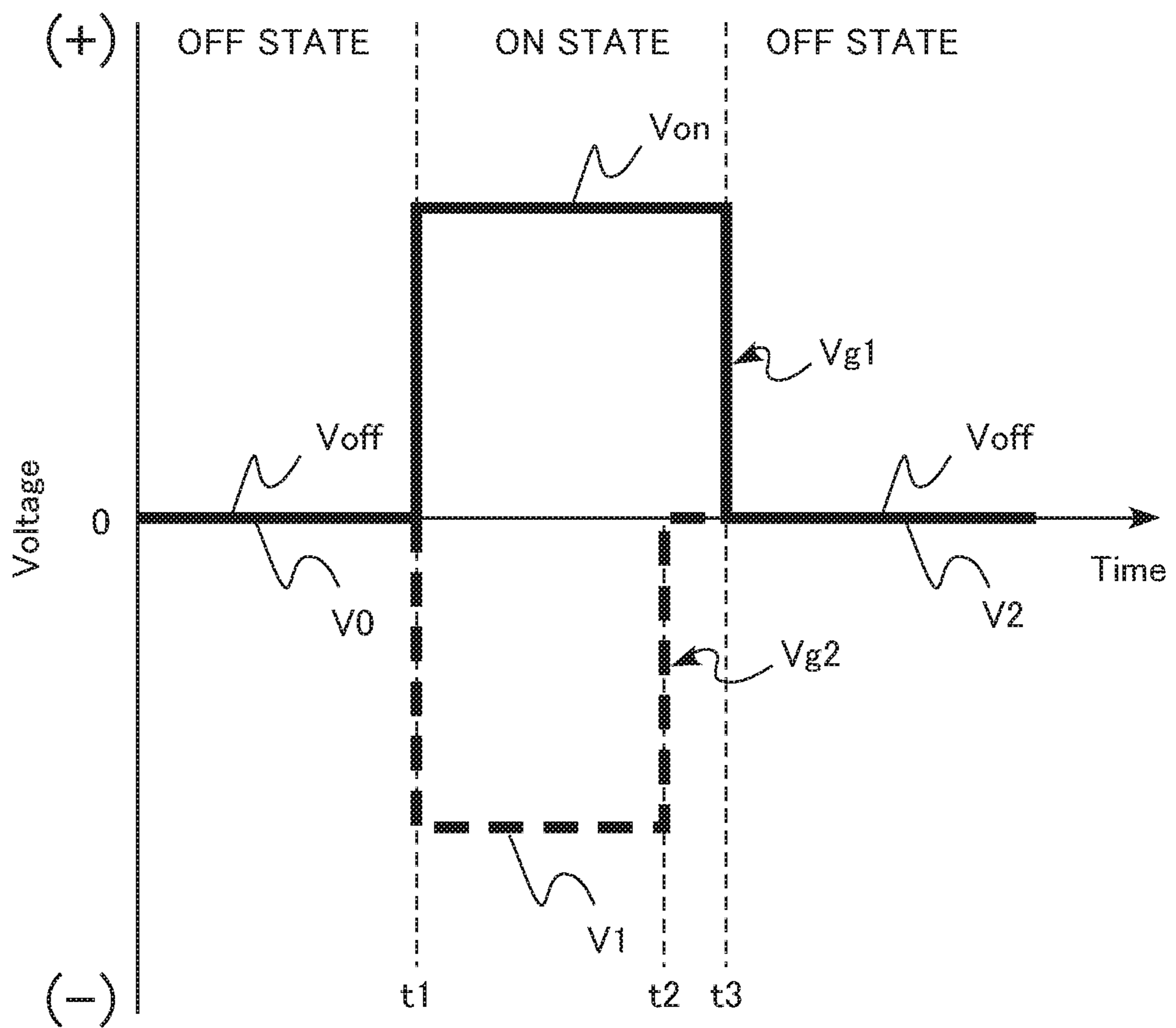






FIG. 7

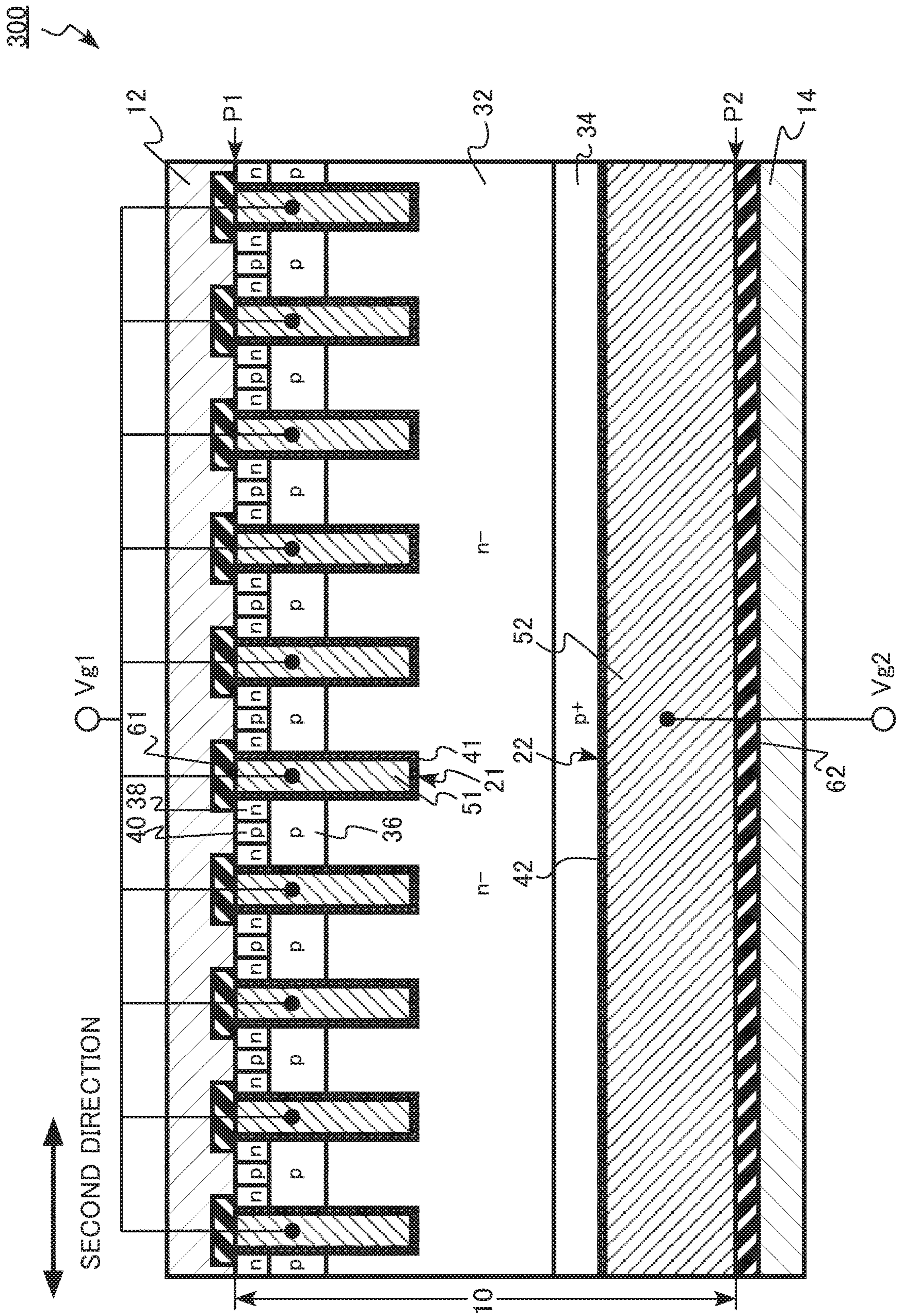




FIG. 9

300 ↗

SECOND DIRECTION  
↔

FIRST DIRECTION  
↔

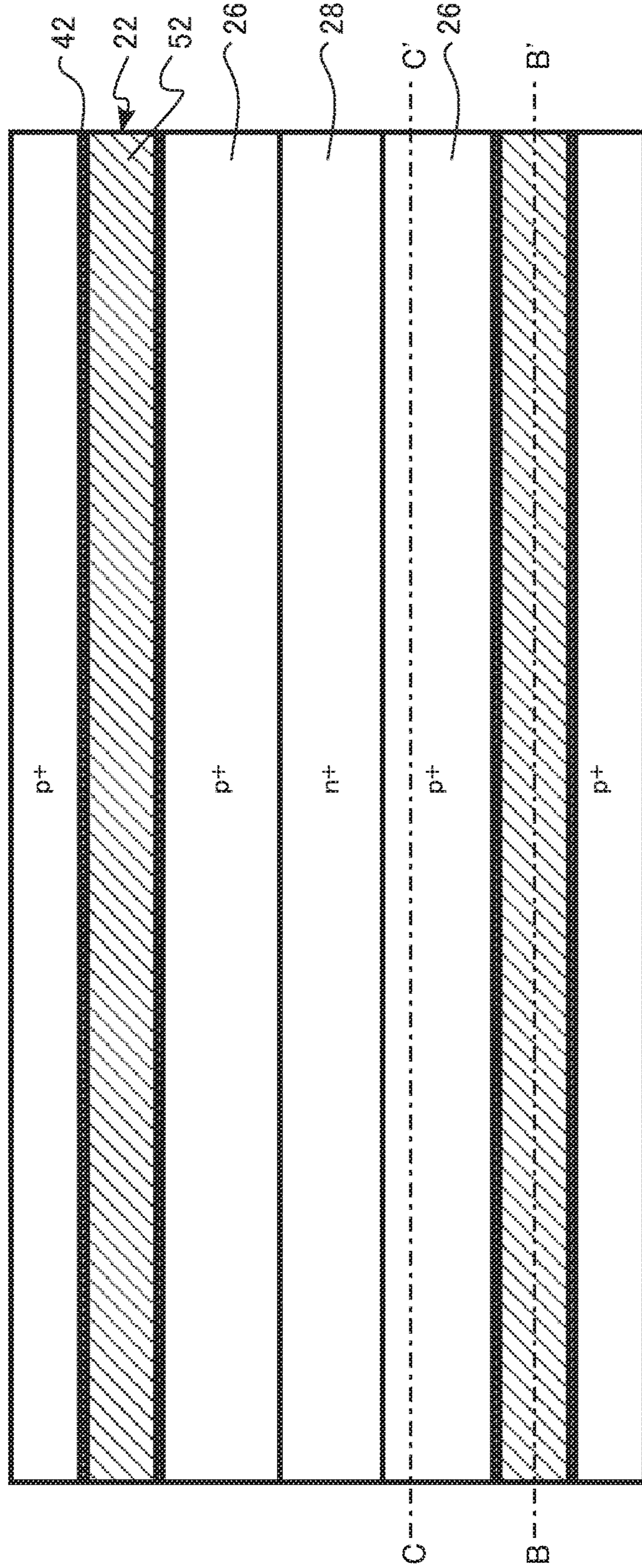


FIG.10

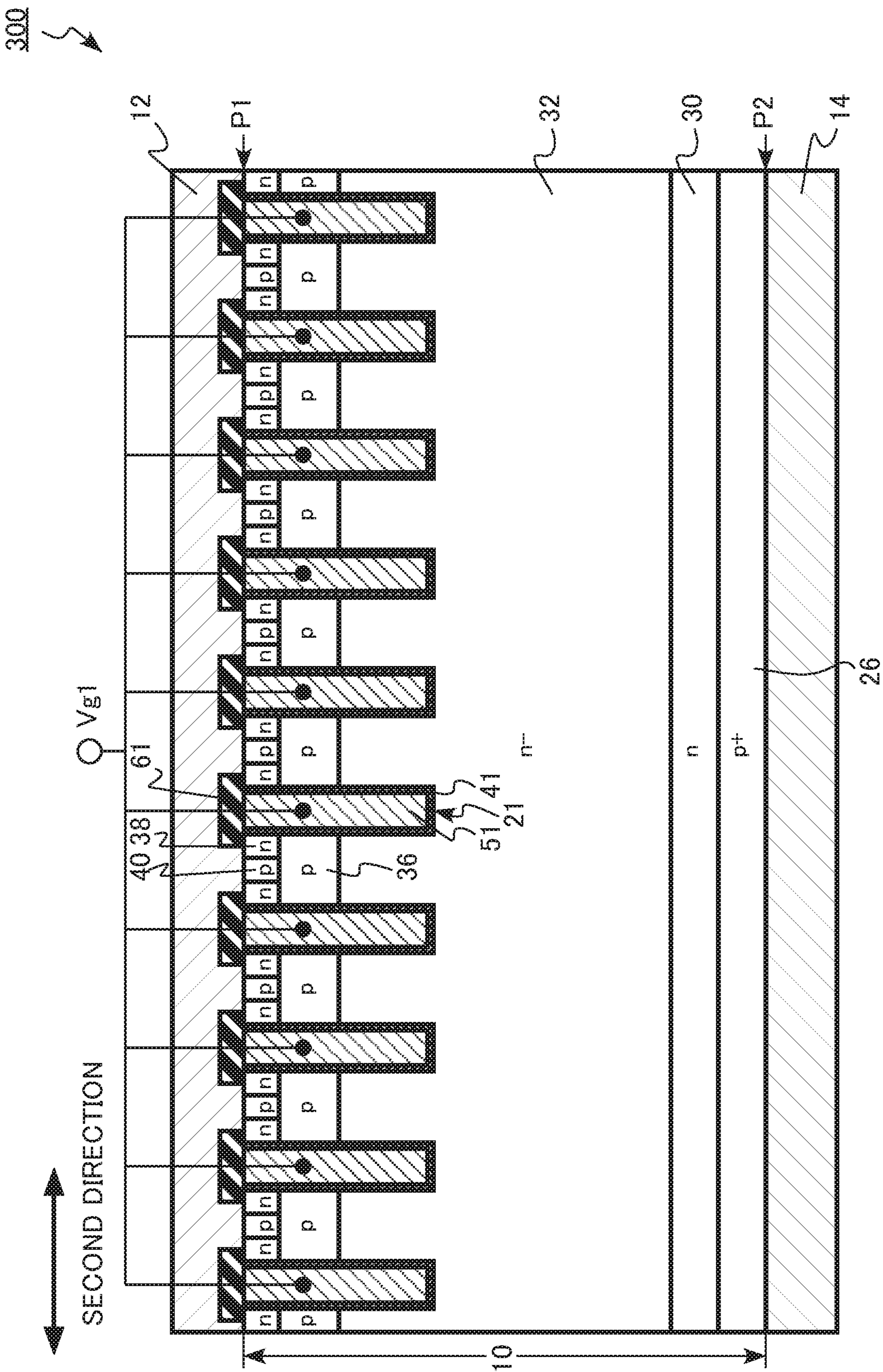


FIG.11

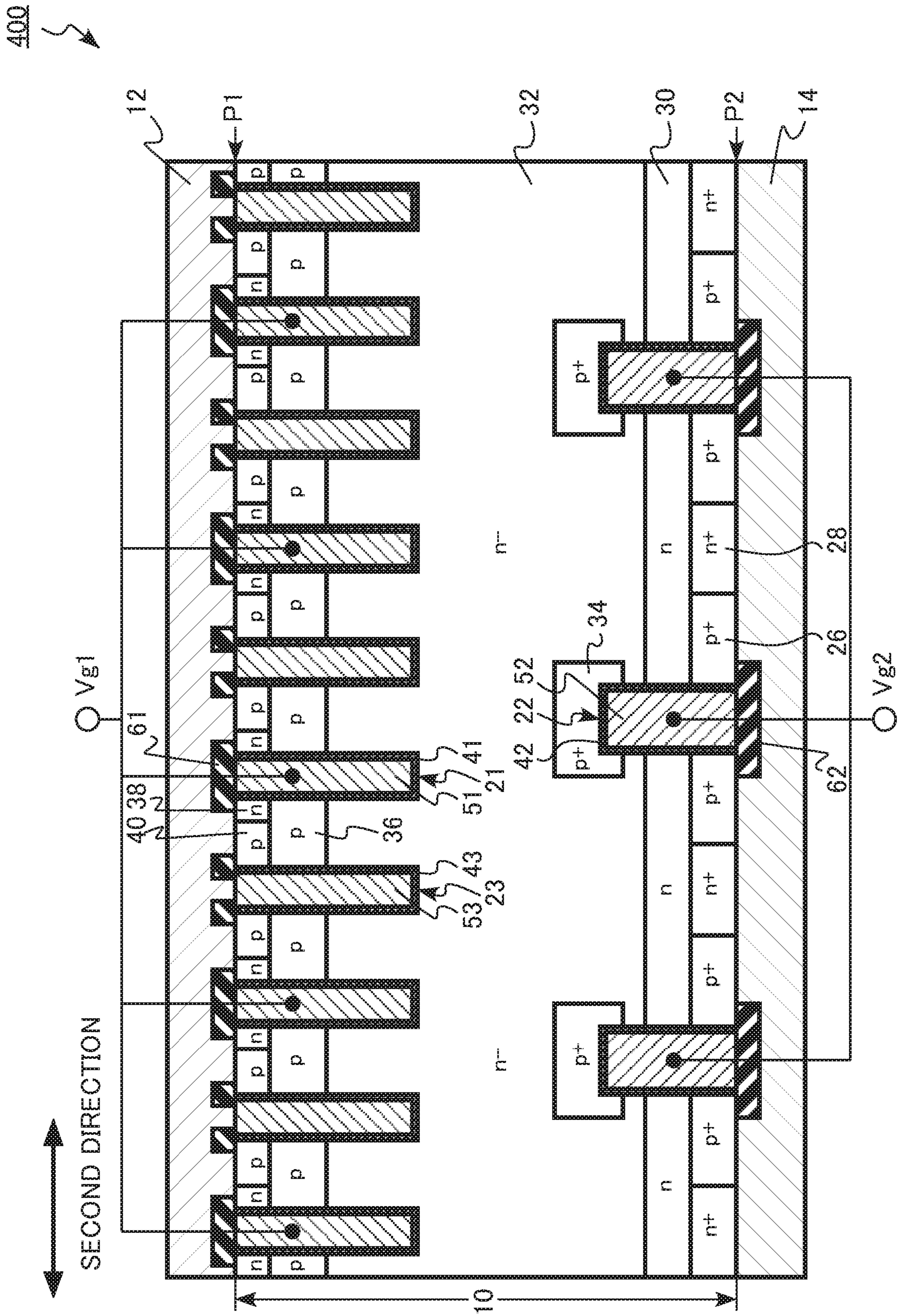
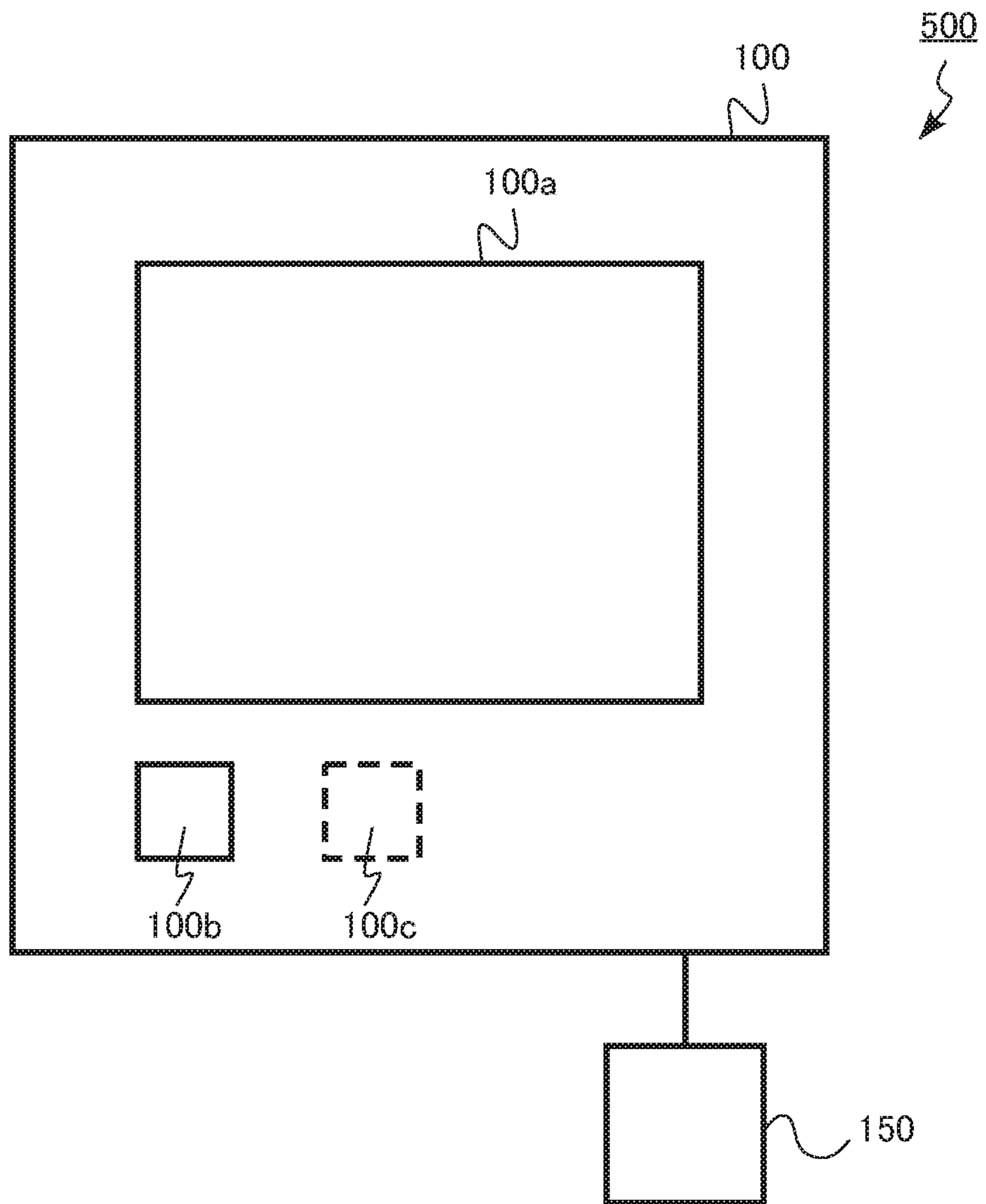


FIG. 12



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SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND  
SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUITCROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED  
APPLICATION

This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2020-050275, filed on Mar. 19, 2020, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

## FIELD

Embodiments described herein relate generally to a semiconductor device and a semiconductor circuit.

## BACKGROUND

As an example of a power semiconductor device, there is an insulated to bipolar transistor (IGBT) having a trench gate structure. In a trench gate structure IGBT, a p-type collector region, an n-type drift region, and a p-type base region are provided, for example, on a collector electrode. Then, a gate electrode is provided in the trench penetrating the p-type base region and reaching the n-type drift region with the gate insulating film-interposed therebetween. Furthermore, an n-type emitter region connected to an emitter electrode is provided in a region adjacent to the trench on the frontside of the p-type base region.

In the above-mentioned IGBT, by applying a positive voltage higher than a threshold voltage to the gate electrode, a channel is formed in the p-type base region. Then, electrons are injected from the n-type emitter region to the n-type drift region, and holes are injected from the p-type collector region to the n-type drift region. As a result, an on-current having electrons and holes as carriers is flown between the collector electrode and the emitter electrode.

In order to realize low power consumption of the IGBT, it is preferable to reduce losses such as steady loss and turn-off loss.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a semiconductor device according to a first embodiment;

FIG. 2 is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment;

FIG. 3 is a schematic plan diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment;

FIG. 4 is a schematic plan diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment;

FIG. 5 is an explanatory diagram of a driving method for the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment;

FIG. 6 is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of a semiconductor device according to a second embodiment;

FIG. 7 is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of a semiconductor device according to a third embodiment;

FIG. 8 is a schematic plan diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the third embodiment;

FIG. 9 is a schematic plan diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the third embodiment;

FIG. 10 is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the third embodiment;

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FIG. 11 is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of a semiconductor device according to a fourth embodiment; and

FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram of a semiconductor circuit according to a fifth embodiment.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A semiconductor device according to an embodiment includes: a semiconductor layer including a first plane and a second plane facing the first plane, the semiconductor layer including: at least one first trench provided on a side of the first plane; at least one second trench provided on a side of the second plane; a first semiconductor region of a first conductivity type being in contact with the second plane; a second semiconductor region of a second conductivity type provided between the first semiconductor region and the first plane; a third semiconductor region of the first conductivity type provided between the second semiconductor region and the first plane; a fourth semiconductor region of the second conductivity type provided between the third semiconductor region and the first plane; and a fifth semiconductor region of the first conductivity type provided between the at least one second trench and the third semiconductor region, being separated from the third semiconductor region and the first semiconductor region, and being in contact with the at least one second trench; a first gate electrode provided in the at least one first trench; a first gate insulating film provided between the first gate electrode and the second semiconductor region, between the first gate electrode and the third semiconductor region, and between the first gate electrode and the fourth semiconductor region; a second gate electrode provided in the at least one second trench; a second gate insulating film provided between the second gate electrode and the first semiconductor region, and between the second gate electrode and the fifth semiconductor region; a first electrode provided on the side of the first plane of the semiconductor layer and being electrically connected to the fourth semiconductor region; and a second electrode provided on the side of the second plane of the semiconductor layer and being electrically connected to the first semiconductor region.

Hereinafter, embodiments will be described with reference to the drawings. In the following description, the same or similar members and the like will be denoted by the same reference numerals, and the description of the members and the like once described will be appropriately omitted.

In this specification, notations of n<sup>+</sup>-type, n-type, and n<sup>-</sup>-type denote that the impurity concentration of the n-type is lowered in the order of n<sup>+</sup>-type, n-type, and n<sup>-</sup>-type. In addition, notations of p<sup>+</sup>-type, p-type, and p<sup>-</sup>-type denote that the impurity concentration of the p-type is lowered in the order of p<sup>+</sup>-type, p-type, and p<sup>-</sup>-type.

In this specification, the distribution and absolute values of the impurity concentrations in the semiconductor regions can be measured by using, for example, secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS). In addition, the relative magnitude relationship between the impurity concentrations of the two semiconductor regions can be determined by using, for example, scanning capacitance microscopy (SCM). The distribution and absolute values of the impurity concentrations can be measured by using, for example, a spreading resistance analysis (SRA) method. In the SCM and the SRA, the relative magnitude relationship and the absolute values of the carrier concentrations in the semiconductor regions can be obtained. By assuming the activation rate of the impurities, the relative magnitude relationship between the

impurity concentrations of two semiconductor regions, the distribution of the impurity concentrations, and the absolute values of the impurity concentrations can be obtained from the measurement results of the SCM and the SRA.

#### First Embodiment

A semiconductor device according to a first embodiment includes a semiconductor layer having a first plane and a second plane facing the first plane, the semiconductor layer including: a first trench being provided on a side of the first plane; a second trench being provided on a side of the second plane; a first semiconductor region of a first conductivity type being in contact with the second plane; a second semiconductor region of a second conductivity type being provided between the first semiconductor region and the first plane; a third semiconductor region of the first conductivity type being provided between the second semiconductor region and the first plane; a fourth semiconductor region of the second conductivity type being provided between the third semiconductor region and the first plane; and a fifth semiconductor region of the first conductivity type being provided between the second trench and the third semiconductor region, being separated from the third semiconductor region and the first semiconductor region, and being in contact with the second trench. And, the semiconductor device includes a first gate electrode being provided in the first trench; a first gate insulating film being provided between the first gate electrode and the second semiconductor region, between the first gate electrode and the third semiconductor region, and between the first gate electrode and the fourth semiconductor region; a second gate electrode being provided in the second trench; a second gate insulating film being provided between the second gate electrode and the first semiconductor region, and between the second gate electrode and the fifth semiconductor region; a first electrode being provided on the side of the first plane of the semiconductor layer and being electrically connected to the fourth semiconductor region; and a second electrode being provided on the side of the second plane of the semiconductor layer and being electrically connected to the first semiconductor region.

The semiconductor device according to the first embodiment is an IGBT **100** having a double-sided gate structure having gate electrodes on the frontside and backside of a semiconductor layer. In addition, the IGBT **100** has a trench gate structure in which frontside and backside gate electrodes are provided in a trench. Hereinafter, a case where the first conductivity type is p-type and the second conductivity type is n-type will be described as an example.

FIG. **1** is a schematic diagram of the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment. FIG. **1** is a layout diagram of a semiconductor chip of the IGBT **100**. The IGBT **100** includes a transistor region **100a**, a frontside gate electrode pad **100b**, and a backside gate electrode pad **100c**. The backside gate electrode pad **100c** is located on the opposite surface side of the semiconductor chip with respect to the frontside gate electrode pad **100b**.

FIG. **2** is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment. FIGS. **3** and **4** are schematic plan diagrams of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment. FIG. **2** illustrates a cross section taken along the line AA' of FIGS. **1** and **3**. FIG. **3** is a plan diagram of a frontside, that is, a first plane P1 of the semiconductor layer. FIG. **4** is a plan diagram of a backside, that is, a second plane P2 of the semiconductor layer.

The IGBT **100** according to the first embodiment includes a semiconductor layer **10**, an emitter electrode **12** (first electrode), a collector electrode **14** (second electrode), a frontside gate insulating film **41** (first gate insulating film), a backside gate insulating film **42** (second gate insulating film), a frontside gate electrode **51** (first gate electrode), a backside gate electrode **52** (second gate electrode), a first interlayer insulating layer **61**, and a second interlayer insulating layer **62**.

In the semiconductor layer **10**, a frontside gate trench **21** (first trench), a backside gate trench **22** (second trench), a p-type collector region **26** (first semiconductor region), an n-type collector region **28** (second semiconductor region), a buffer region **30** (third semiconductor region), a drift region **32** (fourth semiconductor region), a p-type floating region **34** (fifth semiconductor region), a base region **36** (sixth semiconductor region), an emitter region **38** (seventh semiconductor region), and a contact region **40** are provided.

The semiconductor layer **10** has a first plane P1 and a second plane P2 facing the first plane P1. The semiconductor layer **10** is made of, for example, single crystal silicon. The film thickness of the semiconductor layer **10** is, for example, 40  $\mu\text{m}$  or more and 700  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

In this specification, one direction parallel to the first plane P1 is referred to as a first direction. In addition, a direction parallel to the first plane P1 and perpendicular to the first direction is referred to as a second direction.

The emitter electrode **12** is provided on a side of the first plane P1 of the semiconductor layer **10**. At least a portion of the emitter electrode **12** is in contact with the first plane P1 of the semiconductor layer **10**.

The emitter electrode **12** functions as an emitter electrode of the IGBT **100**.

The emitter electrode **12** is made of, for example, a metal. The emitter electrode **12** contains, for example, at least one metal or semiconductor selected from a group consisting of aluminum (Al), titanium (Ti), nickel (Ni), tungsten (W), gold (Au), and polycrystalline silicon (Si).

The emitter electrode **12** is electrically connected to the emitter region **38**. The emitter electrode **12** is electrically connected to the contact region **40**. The emitter electrode **12** is electrically connected to the base region **36** through the contact region **40**.

The collector electrode **14** is provided on a side of the second plane P2 of the semiconductor layer **10**. At least a portion of the collector electrode **14** is in contact with the second plane P2 of the semiconductor layer **10**.

The collector electrode **14** is made of, for example, a metal. The collector electrode **14** contains, for example, at least one metal or semiconductor selected from a group consisting of aluminum (Al), titanium (Ti), nickel (Ni), tungsten (W), gold (Au), and polycrystalline silicon (Si).

The collector electrode **14** is electrically connected to the p-type collector region **26** and the n-type collector region **28**.

The frontside gate trench **21** is provided on the side of the first plane P1 of the semiconductor layer **10**. The frontside gate trench **21** is provided in contact with the base region **36**.

The frontside gate trench **21** is a groove provided in the semiconductor layer **10**. The frontside gate trench **21** is a portion of the semiconductor layer **10**.

As illustrated in FIG. **3**, the frontside gate trench **21** extends on the first plane P1 in the first direction parallel to the first plane P1. The frontside gate trench **21** has a stripe shape. The plurality of frontside gate trenches **21** are repeatedly disposed in the second direction perpendicular to the first direction.



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The frontside gate trench **21** penetrates the base region **36** and reaches the drift region **32**. The depth of the frontside gate trench **21** based on the first plane **P1** as a reference is, for example, 8  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

The backside gate trench **22** is provided on the side of the second plane **P2** of the semiconductor layer **10**. The backside to trench **22** is provided in contact with the buffer region **30** and the drift region **32**.

The backside gate trench **22** is a groove provided in the semiconductor layer **10**. The backside gate trench **22** is a portion of the semiconductor layer **10**.

As illustrated in FIG. 4, the backside gate trench **22** extends on the second plane **P2** in the first direction parallel to the second plane **P2**. The backside gate trench **22** has a stripe shape. The plurality of backside gate trenches **22** are repeatedly disposed in the second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

The backside gate trench **22** penetrates the buffer region **30** and reaches the drift region **32**. The depth of the backside gate trench **22** based on the second plane **P2** as a reference is, for example, 8  $\mu\text{m}$  or less. The width of the backside gate trench **22** in the second direction is, for example, larger than the width of the frontside gate trench **21** in the second direction.

A pitch of the backside gate trenches **22** in the second direction ( $d_2$  in FIG. 2) may be larger than a pitch of the frontside gate trenches **21** in the second direction ( $d_1$  in FIG. 2). The pitch of the frontside gate trenches **21** in the second direction is a distance between centers of two adjacent frontside to trenches **21**. And, the pitch of the backside gate trenches **22** in the second direction is a distance between centers of two adjacent backside gate trenches **22**.

The p-type collector region **26** is a p<sup>+</sup>-type semiconductor region. The p-type collector region **26** is in contact with the second plane **P2**. The p-type collector region **26** is electrically connected to the collector electrode **14**. The p-type collector region **26** is in contact with the collector electrode **14**. The p-type collector region **26** serves as a hole supply source at the time of the ON state of the IGBT **100**.

The n-type collector region **28** is an n<sup>-</sup>-type semiconductor region. The n-type collector region **28** is in contact with the second plane **P2**. The n-type collector region **28** is provided adjacent to the p-type collector region **26**. The n-type collector region **28** is electrically connected to the collector electrode **14**. The n-type collector region **28** is in contact with the collector electrode **14**. The n-type collector region **28** serves as a path of the electrons to flow from the drift region **32** to the collector electrode **14** at the time of turn-on operation of the IGBT **100**.

The buffer region **30** is an n-type semiconductor region. The buffer region **30** is provided between the p-type collector region **26** and the first plane **P1**. The buffer region **30** is provided between the p-type collector region **26** and the drift region **32**. The buffer region **30** is provided between the n-type collector region **28** and the first plane **P1**. The buffer region **30** is provided between the n-type collector region **28** and the drift region **32**.

The n-type impurity concentration of the buffer region **30** is higher than the n-type impurity concentration of the drift region **32**. The n-type impurity concentration of the buffer region **30** is lower than the n-type impurity concentration of the n-type collector region **28**.

The buffer region **30** has a function of suppressing the IGBT **100** from being in the punch-through state in the OFF state of the IGBT **100**. The extension of the depletion layer extending from a side of the base region **36** to the drift region **32** is suppressed in the buffer region **30**. For example, by

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increasing the thickness of the drift region **32**, the buffer region **30** may also be omitted.

The drift region **32** is an n<sup>-</sup>-type semiconductor region. The drift region **32** is provided between the p-type collector region **26** and the first plane **P1**. The drift region **32** is provided between the buffer region **30** and the base region **36**.

The n-type impurity concentration of the drift region **32** is lower than the n-type impurity concentration of the buffer region **30**.

The drift region **32** serves as a path of the ON-current at the time of the ON state of the IGBT **100**. The drift region **32** has a function of being depleted at the time of the OFF state of the IGBT **100** and maintaining the breakdown voltage of the IGBT **100**.

The base region **36** is a p-type semiconductor region. The base region **36** is provided between the drift region **32** and the first plane **P1**. The base region **36** is in contact with the drift region **32**.

The depth of the base region **36** based on the first plane **P1** as a reference is, for example, 8  $\mu\text{m}$  or less. An n-type inversion layer is formed in the region of the base region **36** facing the frontside gate electrode **51** at the time of the ON state of the IGBT **100**. The base region **36** functions as a channel region of the transistor.

The emitter region **38** is an n<sup>+</sup>-type semiconductor region. The emitter region **38** is provided between the base region **36** and the first plane **P1**. The emitter region **38** extends in the first direction on the first plane **P1**.

The emitter region **38** is in contact with the frontside gate insulating film **41**.

The n-type impurity concentration of the emitter region **38** is higher than the n-type impurity concentration of the drift region **32**.

The emitter region **38** is electrically connected to the emitter electrode **12**. The emitter region **38** is in contact with the emitter electrode **12**. The emitter region **38** serves as an electron supply source at the time of the ON state of the IGBT **100**.

The contact region **40** is a p<sup>+</sup>-type semiconductor region. The contact region **40** is provided between the base region **36** and the first plane **P1**.

The contact region **40** extends in the first direction on the first plane **P1**. The contact region **40** is electrically connected to the emitter electrode **12**.

The p-type impurity concentration of the contact region **40** is higher than the p-type impurity concentration of the base region **36**.

The p-type floating region **34** is a p<sup>+</sup>-type semiconductor region. The p-type floating region **34** is provided between the backside gate trench **22** and the base region **36**. The p-type floating region **34** is provided between the backside gate trench **22** and the drift region **32**.

The p-type floating region **34** is separated from the base region **36**. The p-type floating region **34** is separated from the p-type collector region **26**.

The p-type floating region **34** is in contact with the backside gate trench **22**. The p-type floating region **34** covers the corner of the backside gate trench **22**. The p-type floating region **34** is in contact with the bottom and portions of the side surfaces of the backside gate trench **22**.

For example, the p-type impurity concentration of the p-type floating region **34** is higher than the p-type impurity concentration of the base region **36**.

The p-type floating region **34** becomes a portion of the hole supply source at the time of the ON state of the IGBT **100**.

The frontside gate electrode **51** is provided in the frontside gate trench **21**. The frontside gate electrode **51** is made of, for example, a semiconductor or a metal. The frontside gate electrode **51** is made of, for example, an amorphous silicon containing n-type impurities or p-type impurities or a polycrystalline silicon containing n-type impurities or p-type impurities.

The frontside gate electrode **51** is electrically connected to the frontside gate electrode pad **100b**. A first gate voltage ( $V_{g1}$ ) is applied to the frontside gate electrode pad **100b**. The first gate voltage ( $V_{g1}$ ) is applied to the frontside gate electrode **51**.

The frontside gate insulating film **41** is provided between the frontside gate electrode **51** and the semiconductor layer **10**. The frontside gate insulating film **41** is provided between the frontside gate electrode **51** and the drift region **32**, between the frontside gate electrode **51** and the base region **36**, and between the frontside gate electrode **51** and the emitter region **38**. The frontside gate insulating film **41** is in contact with the drift region **32**, the base region **36**, and the emitter region **38**. The frontside gate insulating film **41** is made of, for example, a silicon oxide.

The backside gate electrode **52** is provided in the backside gate trench **22**. The backside gate electrode **52** is made of, for example, a semiconductor or a metal. The backside gate electrode **52** is made of, for example, an amorphous silicon containing n-type impurities or p-type impurities or a polycrystalline silicon containing n-type impurities or p-type impurities.

The backside gate electrode **52** is electrically connected to the backside gate electrode pad **100c**. A second gate voltage ( $V_{g2}$ ) is applied to the backside gate electrode pad **100c**. The second gate voltage ( $V_{g2}$ ) is applied to the backside gate electrode **52**.

The backside gate insulating film **42** is provided between the backside gate electrode **52** and the semiconductor layer **10**. The backside gate insulating film **42** is provided between the backside gate electrode **52** and the p-type collector region **26**, between the backside gate electrode **52** and the buffer region **30**, between the backside gate electrode **52** and the drift region **32**, and between the backside gate electrode **52** and the p-type floating region **34**.

The backside gate insulating film **42** is in contact with the p-type collector region **26**, the buffer region **30**, the drift region **32**, and the p-type floating region **34**. The backside gate insulating film **42** is made of, for example, a silicon oxide.

The first interlayer insulating layer **61** is provided between the frontside gate electrode **51** and the emitter electrode **12**. The first interlayer insulating layer **61** electrically isolates the frontside gate electrode **51** and the emitter electrode **12**. The first interlayer insulating layer **61** is made of, for example, a silicon oxide.

The second interlayer insulating layer **62** is provided between the backside gate electrode **52** and the collector electrode **14**. The second interlayer insulating layer **62** electrically isolates the backside gate electrode **52** and the collector electrode **14**. The second interlayer insulating layer **62** is made of, for example, a silicon oxide.

Next, a driving method for the IGBT **100** will be described.

FIG. **5** is an explanatory diagram of a driving method for the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment. FIG. **5** is a timing chart of the first gate voltage ( $V_{g1}$ ) applied to the frontside gate electrode pad **100b** and the second gate voltage ( $V_{g2}$ ) applied to the backside gate electrode pad **100c**.

Hereinafter, for the convenience of operation description, a transistor having the frontside gate electrode **51** will be described.

In the OFF state of the IGBT **100**, for example, the emitter voltage is applied to the emitter electrode **12**. The emitter voltage is, for example, 0 V. The collector voltage is applied to the collector electrode **14**. The collector voltage is, for example, 200 V or more and 6500 V or less.

In the OFF state of the IGBT **100**, the turn-off voltage ( $V_{off}$ ) is applied to the frontside gate electrode pad **100b**. The first gate voltage ( $V_{g1}$ ) becomes the turn-off voltage ( $V_{off}$ ). Therefore, the turn-off voltage ( $V_{off}$ ) is also applied to the frontside gate electrode **51**.

The turn-off voltage ( $V_{off}$ ) is a voltage lower than the threshold voltage at which the transistor having the frontside gate electrode **51** is not in the turned-on state and is, for example, 0 V or a negative voltage. [008:3] In the OFF state, an n-type inversion layer is not formed to face the frontside gate electrode **51** in the base region **36** being in contact with the frontside gate insulating film **41**.

In the OFF state of the IGBT **100**, an initial voltage ( $V_0$ ) is applied to the backside gate electrode pad **100c**. The second gate voltage ( $V_{g2}$ ) becomes the initial voltage ( $V_0$ ). Therefore, the initial voltage ( $V_0$ ) is also applied to the backside gate electrode **52**.

The initial voltage ( $V_0$ ) is, for example, a voltage at which a p-type inversion layer is not formed in the buffer region **30** and the drift region **32** facing the backside gate electrode **52** and being in contact with the backside gate insulating film **42**. The initial voltage ( $V_0$ ) is a voltage higher than the threshold voltage at which the p-type inversion layer is formed in the buffer region **30** and the drift region **32**. The initial voltage ( $V_0$ ) is, for example, 0 V or a positive voltage.

In the OFF state, the p-type inversion layer is not formed in the buffer region **30** and the drift region **32** which are in contact with the backside gate insulating film **42**. For this reason, the p-type collector region **26** and the p-type floating region **34** electrically isolated. For this reason, the electric potential of the p-type floating region **34** is floating.

In the OFF state of the IGBT **100**, no current flows between the collector electrode **14** and the emitter electrode **12**.

When the IGBT **100** is set to be in the turned-on state (time  $t_1$  in FIG. **5**), the turn-on voltage ( $V_{on}$ ) is applied to the frontside gate electrode pad **100b**. The first gate voltage ( $V_{g1}$ ) becomes the turn-on voltage ( $V_{on}$ ). The turn-on voltage ( $V_{on}$ ) is also applied to the frontside gate electrode **51**.

The turn-on voltage ( $V_{on}$ ) is a positive voltage exceeding the threshold voltage of the transistor having the frontside gate electrode **51**. The turn-on voltage ( $V_{on}$ ) is, for example, 15 V. By applying the turn-on voltage ( $V_{on}$ ) to the frontside gate electrode **51**, the transistor having the frontside gate electrode **51** is in the turned-on state.

When the IGBT **100** is set to be in the turned-on state (time  $t_1$  in FIG. **5**), the first voltage ( $V_1$ ) is applied to the backside gate electrode **100c**. The second gate voltage ( $V_{g2}$ ) becomes the first voltage ( $V_1$ ). Therefore, the first voltage ( $V_1$ ) is also applied to the backside gate electrode **52**.

In addition, in FIG. **5**, a case where the time when the turn-on voltage ( $V_{on}$ ) is applied to the frontside gate electrode pad **100b** and the time when the first voltage ( $V_1$ ) is applied to the backside gate electrode pad **100c** are the same has been described as an example, but the two times may not be the same. One time may be before the other time.

The first voltage ( $V_1$ ) is a voltage at which the p-type inversion layer is formed in the buffer region **30** facing the

backside gate electrode **52** and the drift region **32** facing the backside gate electrode **52** which are in contact with the backside gate insulating film **42**. The first voltage (V1) is a negative voltage. The first voltage (V1) is, for example, equal to or higher than  $-15$  V and lower than  $0$  V.

By applying the first voltage (V1) to the backside gate electrode **52**, the p-type inversion layer is formed in the buffer region **30** and the drift region **32** which are in contact with the backside gate insulating film **42**. Therefore, the p-type collector region **26** and the p-type floating region **34** are electrically connected to each other.

In the ON state of the IGBT **100**, the p-type collector region **26** and the p-type floating region **34** are electrically connected to each other. For this reason, the electric potential of the p-type floating region **34** becomes the same as the electric potential of the p-type collector region **26**.

Therefore, similarly to the p-type collector region, the p-type floating region **34** also functions as a hole injection region. In the ON state of the IGBT **100**, the on-current flows between the collector electrode **14** and the emitter electrode **12** even by passing through the p-type floating region **34** together with the p-type collector region **26**.

At the time of setting the IGBT **100** to be in the turned-off state (time  $t_3$  in FIG. **5**), a turn-off voltage (Voff) is applied to the frontside gate electrode pad **100b**. The first gate voltage (Vg1) becomes the turn-off voltage (Voff). The turn-off voltage (Voff) is also applied to the front side gate electrode **51**.

For example, before the first gate voltage (Vg1) is changed from the turn-on voltage (Von) to the turn-off voltage (Voff), that is, before the time  $t_3$ , the second gate voltage (Vg2) is changed from the first voltage (V1) to the second voltage (V2). The voltage applied to the backside gate electrode pad **100c** is changed from the first voltage (V1) to the second voltage at the time  $t_2$ .

The second voltage (V2) is the initial voltage (V0). The initial voltage (V0) is also applied to the backside gate electrode **52**. The initial voltage (V0) is a voltage higher than the threshold voltage at which the p-type inversion layer is formed in the buffer region **30** and the drift region **32**. The initial voltage (V0) is, for example,  $0$  V or a positive voltage.

By applying  $0$  V or a positive voltage to the backside gate electrode **52**, the p-type inversion layer formed in the drift region **32** in contact with the backside gate insulating film **42** disappears. Therefore, the p-type collector region **26** and the p-type floating region **34** are electrically isolated.

In addition, in FIG. **5**, a case where the time  $t_2$  is before the time  $t_3$  has been described as an example, but the time  $t_2$  may be the same as the time  $t_3$  in addition, the time  $t_2$  may be after the time  $t_3$ .

The time length between the time  $t_2$  and the time  $t_3$  is, for example,  $20$  microseconds or less.

Next, the functions and effects of the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment will be described.

In order to realize low power consumption of the IGBT, it is preferable to reduce losses such as steady loss and turn-off loss. In order to reduce the steady loss, it is necessary to reduce the on-resistance of the IGBT. For example, it is considered to reduce the thickness of the drift region in order to reduce the on-resistance. However, in this case, the breakdown voltage of the IGBT is lowered. That is, the on-resistance and the breakdown voltage have a trade-off relationship.

In addition, in order to reduce the on-resistance, it is considered to use, for example, a trench gate structure. By using the trench structure, the carriers can be efficiently stored in the drift region, and thus, it is possible to reduce the

on-resistance. However, in the case of sufficiently storing the carriers to realize low on-resistance, the amount of carriers to be discharged from the drift region at the time of turn off of the IGBT is increased. For this reason, the turn-off time is lengthened, and the turn-off loss is increased. That is, the on-resistance and the turn-off loss have a trade-off relationship.

In the IGBT **100** according to the first embodiment, in the OFF state, the p-type inversion layer is not formed in the buffer region **30** and the drift region **32** that are in contact with the backside gate insulating film **42**. For this reason, the p-type collector region **26** and the p-type floating region **34** are electrically isolated. Therefore, the effective thickness of the drift region is equal to the distance between the base region **36** and the p-type collector region **26**.

On the other hand, in the ON state of the IGBT **100**, the p-type inversion layer is formed in the buffer region **30** and the drift region **32** which are in contact with the backside gate insulating film **42**. For this reason, the p-type collector region **26** and the p-type floating region **34** are electrically connected, and thus, the p-type floating region **34** also functions as a hole injecting region like the p-type collector region. Therefore, the effective thickness of the drift region is equal to the distance between the base region **36** and the p-type floating region **34**, and the effective thickness becomes shorter than that of the case of the OFF state.

In the IGBT **100**, the effective thickness of the drift region is changed between the case of the OFF state and the case of the ON state. In the case of the ON state, the effective thickness of the drift region becomes shorter than the case of the OFF state. Therefore, the trade-off relationship between the on-resistance and the breakdown voltage is improved. Therefore, it is possible to reduce the on-resistance of the IGBT **100** and to reduce the steady loss.

When the IGBT **100** is set to be in the turned-off state, the p-type inversion layer formed in the drift region **32** in contact with the backside gate insulating film **42** disappears. For this reason, the p-type collector region **26** and the p-type floating region **34** are electrically isolated.

By electrically isolating the p-type floating region **34**, a path of the electrons to be discharged from the drift region **32** through the buffer region **30** and the n-type collector region **28** to the collector electrode **14** functions. That is, the effect of the anode short circuit in which the n-type drift region **32** and the collector electrode **14** are short-circuited becomes enhanced.

The discharge of carriers from the drift region **32** is facilitated. For this reason, the turn-off time becomes shortened. That is, the trade-off relationship between the on-resistance and the turn-off loss is improved. Therefore, it is possible to reduce the turn-off loss of the IGBT **100**.

In the IGBT **100**, the distance from the base region **36** to the p-type floating region **34** is shorter than the distance from the base region **36** to the n-type collector region **28**. In other words, the p-type floating region **34** and the n-type collector region **28** are apart from each other. Therefore, by providing the n-type collector region **28**, the increase of the rise voltage of the turn-on current is less likely to occur. Therefore, the turn-on time is shortened, and thus, it is possible to reduce the turn-on loss.

In the IGBT **100**, the p-type floating region **34** covers the corner of the backside gate trench **22**. Therefore, at the time of the OFF state of the IGBT **100**, the electric field strength applied to the backside gate insulating film **42** at the corner of the backside gate trench **22** is relaxed. Therefore, the backside improved.

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From the viewpoint of facilitating the formation of backside gate trench **22**, it is preferable that the depth of the backside gate trench **22** based on the second plane **P2** as a reference is smaller than the depth of the frontside gate trench **21** based on the first plane **P1** as a reference.

On the other hand, from the viewpoint of reducing the on-resistance of the IGBT **100**, it is preferable that the depth of the backside gate trench **22** based on the second plane **P2** as a reference is larger than the depth of the frontside gate trench **21** based on the first plane **P1** as a reference.

From the viewpoint of increasing the amount of holes injected from the p-type floating region **34** at the time of the ON state of the IGBT **100**, it is preferable that the p-type impurity concentration of the p-type floating region **34** is higher than the p-type impurity concentration of the base region **36**.

As described above, according to the first embodiment, it is possible to realize the semiconductor device capable of reducing the steady loss and the turn-off loss.

## Second Embodiment

A semiconductor device according to a second embodiment is different from the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment in that the semiconductor layer does not include the sixth semiconductor region of the second conductivity type being in contact with the second plane and being electrically connected to the second electrode. Hereinafter, in some cases, a portion of the description overlapping with that of the first embodiment will be omitted.

The semiconductor device according to the second embodiment is an IGBT **200** having a double-sided gate structure having gate electrodes on the frontside and backside of a semiconductor layer. In addition, the IGBT **200** has a trench gate structure in which frontside and backside gate electrodes are provided in a trench. Hereinafter, a case where the first conductivity type is p-type and the second conductivity type is n-type will be described as an example.

FIG. **6** is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the second embodiment. FIG. **6** is a diagram corresponding to FIG. **1** of the first embodiment.

The IGBT **200** according to the second embodiment includes a semiconductor layer **10**, an emitter electrode **12** (first electrode), a collector electrode **14** (second electrode), a frontside gate insulating film **41** (first gate insulating film), a backside gate insulating film **42** (second gate insulating film), a frontside gate electrode **51** (first gate electrode), a backside gate electrode **52** (second gate electrode), a first interlayer insulating layer **61**, and a second interlayer insulating layer **62**.

In the semiconductor layer **10**, a frontside gate trench **21** (first trench), a backside gate trench **22** (second trench), a p-type collector region **26** (first semiconductor region), a buffer region **30** (seventh semiconductor region), a drift region **32** (second semiconductor region), a p-type floating region **34** (fifth semiconductor region), a base region **36** (third semiconductor region), an emitter region **38** (fourth semiconductor region), and a contact region **40** are provided.

The semiconductor layer **10** of the IGBT **200** does not have the n-type collector region **28** (sixth semiconductor region) that the semiconductor layer **10** of the IGBT **100** according to the first embodiment has.

According to the IGBT **200** of the second embodiment, similarly to the first embodiment, the effective thickness of the drift region is changed between the case of the OFF state and the case of the ON state. In the case of the ON state, the effective thickness of the drift region becomes shorter than

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that of the case of the OFF state. Therefore, the trade-off relationship between the on-resistance and the breakdown voltage is improved. Therefore, it is possible to reduce the on-resistance of the IGBT **200** and to reduce the steady loss.

As described above, according to the second embodiment, it is possible to realize a semiconductor device capable of reducing the steady loss.

## Third Embodiment

semiconductor device according to the third embodiment is different from the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment in that the first trench extends on the first plane in the first direction parallel to the first plane, and the second trench extends on the second plane in the second direction parallel to the first plane and perpendicular to the first direction. Hereinafter, in some cases, a portion of the description overlapping with that of the first embodiment will be omitted.

The semiconductor device according to the third embodiment is an IGBT **300** having a double-sided gate structure having gate electrodes on the frontside and backside of a semiconductor layer. In addition, the IGBT **300** has a trench gate structure in which frontside and backside gate electrodes are provided in a trench. Hereinafter, a case where the first conductivity type is p-type and the second conductivity type is n-type will be described as an example.

FIG. **7** is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the third embodiment. FIGS. **8** and **9** are schematic plan diagrams of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the third embodiment. FIG. **10** is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the third embodiment.

FIG. **7** illustrates a cross section taken along the line BB' of FIG. **9**. FIG. **8** is a plan diagram of the frontside, that is, the first plane **P1** of the semiconductor layer. FIG. **9** is a plan diagram of the backside, that is, the second plane **P2** of the semiconductor layer. FIG. **10** illustrates a cross section taken along the line CC' of FIG. **9**.

The IGBT **300** according to the third embodiment includes a semiconductor layer **10**, an emitter electrode **12** (first electrode) a collector electrode **14** (second electrode), frontside gate insulating film **41** (first gate insulating film), a backside gate insulating film **42** (second gate insulating film), a frontside gate electrode **51** (first gate electrode), a backside gate electrode **52** (second gate electrode), a first interlayer insulating layer **61**, and a second interlayer insulating layer **62**.

In the semiconductor layer **10**, a frontside gate trench **21** (first trench), a backside gate trench **22** (second trench), a p-type collector region **26** (first semiconductor region), an n-type collector region **28** (sixth semiconductor region), a buffer region **30** (seventh semiconductor region), a drift region **32** (second semiconductor region), a p-type floating region **34** (fifth semiconductor region), a base region **36** (third semiconductor region), an emitter region **38** (fourth semiconductor region), and a contact region **40** are provided.

The frontside gate trench **21** extends on the first plane **P1** in the first direction parallel to the first plane **P1**. In addition, the backside gate trench **22** extends on the second plane **P2** in the second direction parallel to the first plane and perpendicular to the first direction. The backside gate trench **22** extends in the direction perpendicular to the frontside gate trench **21**.

The backside gate trench **22** extends in the direction perpendicular to the frontside gate trench **21**, so that the flow

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of the on-current of the IGBT 300 becomes uniform. Therefore, local concentration of the ON current is unlikely to occur. Therefore, the reliability and the breakdown resistance of the IGBT 300 are improved.

As described above, according to the third embodiment, similarly to the first embodiment, it is possible to realize the semiconductor device capable of reducing the steady loss and the turn-off loss. Furthermore, it is possible to realize a semiconductor device with improved reliability and breakdown resistance.

## Fourth Embodiment

A semiconductor device according to a fourth embodiment is different from the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment in that the semiconductor layer further includes a third trench provided on the side of the first plane, and the semiconductor device according to the fourth embodiment further includes a conductive layer provided in the third trench and electrically connected to the first electrode and an insulating film provided between the conductive layer and the second semiconductor region and between the conductive layer and the third semiconductor region. Hereinafter, in some cases, a portion of the description overlapping with that of the first embodiment will be omitted.

The semiconductor device according to the fourth embodiment is an IGBT 400 having a double-sided gate structure having gate electrodes on the frontside and backside of a semiconductor layer. In addition, the IGBT 400 has a trench gate structure in which frontside and backside gate electrodes are provided in the trench. Hereinafter, a case where the first conductivity type is p-type and the second conductivity type is n-type will be described as an example.

FIG. 11 is a schematic cross-sectional diagram of a portion of the semiconductor device according to the fourth embodiment. FIG. 11 is a diagram corresponding to FIG. 1 of the first embodiment.

The IGBT 400 according the fourth embodiment includes a semiconductor layer 10, an emitter electrode 12 (first electrode), a collector electrode 14 (second electrode), a frontside gate insulating film 41 (first gate insulating film), a backside gate insulating film 42 (second gate insulating film), a dummy gate insulating film 43 (insulating film), a frontside gate electrode 51 (first gate electrode), a backside gate electrode 52 (second gate electrode), a dummy gate electrode 53 (conductive, a first interlayer insulating layer 61, and a second interlayer insulating layer 62).

In the semiconductor layer 10, a frontside gate trench 21 (first trench), a backside gate trench 22 (second trench) a dummy gate trench 23 (third trench), a p-type collector region 26 (first semiconductor region), an n-type collector region 28 (sixth semiconductor region), a buffer region 30 (seventh semiconductor region), a drift region 32 (second semiconductor region), a p-type floating region 34 (fifth semiconductor region), a base region 36 (third semiconductor region), an emitter region 38 (fourth semiconductor region), and a contact region 40 are provided.

The dummy gate trench 23 is provided on the side of the first plane P1 of the semiconductor layer 10. The dummy gate trench 23 is provided in contact with the base region 36.

The dummy gate trench 23 is a groove provided in the semiconductor layer 10. The dummy gate trench 23 is a portion of the semiconductor layer 10.

The dummy gate trench 23 extends on the first plane P1 in the first direction parallel to the first plane P1. The dummy gate trench 23 has a stripe shape. The plurality of dummy

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gate trenches 23 are repeatedly disposed in the second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

The dummy gate trench 23 is provided so as to be interposed between the two frontside gate trenches 21.

The dummy gate trench 23 penetrates the base region 36 and reaches the drift region 32. The depth of the dummy gate trench 23 based on the first plane P1 as a reference is, for example, 8 μm or less.

The dummy gate electrode 53 is provided in the dummy gate trench 23. The dummy gate electrode 53 is made of, for example, a semiconductor or a metal. The dummy gate electrode 53 is made of, for example, an amorphous silicon containing n-type impurities or p-type impurities or a polycrystalline silicon containing n-type impurities or p-type impurities.

The dummy gate electrode 53 is electrically connected to the emitter electrode 12. The dummy gate electrode 53 has the same electric potential as the emitter electrode 12.

The dummy gate insulating film 43 is provided between the dummy gate electrode 53 and the semiconductor layer 10. The dummy gate insulating film 43 is provided between the dummy gate electrode 53 and the drift region 32, between the dummy gate electrode 53 and the base region 36, and between the dummy gate electrode 53 and the contact region 40. The dummy gate insulating film 43 is in contact with the drift region 32, the base region 36, and the contact region 40. The dummy gate insulating film 43 is separated from the emitter region 38. The dummy gate insulating film 43 is made of, for example, a silicon oxide.

In the IGBT 400 according to the fourth embodiment, the dummy gate trench 23, the dummy gate insulating film 43, and the dummy gate electrode 53 are provided, so that it is possible to increase the amount of carriers stored in the drift region at the time of the ON state. Therefore, it is possible to reduce the on-resistance of the IGBT 400 and to reduce the steady loss.

As described above, according to the fourth embodiment, similarly to the first embodiment, it is possible to realize the semiconductor device capable of reducing the steady loss and the turn-off loss. Furthermore, it is possible to reduce the on-resistance and to reduce the steady loss.

## Fifth Embodiment

A semiconductor circuit according to a fifth embodiment is different from the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment in that the semiconductor circuit according to the fifth embodiment includes a control circuit controlling the semiconductor device so that, when the turn-on voltage is applied to the first gate electrode, a negative voltage is applied to the second gate electrode in a case where the first conductivity type is p-type, and a positive voltage is applied to the second gate electrode in a case where the first conductivity type is n-type. Hereinafter, in some cases, a portion of the description overlapping with that of the first embodiment will be omitted.

FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram of the semiconductor circuit according to the fifth embodiment. The semiconductor circuit 500 according to the fifth embodiment includes the IGBT 100 according to the first embodiment and the control circuit 150. The semiconductor circuit 500 is, for example, a semiconductor module in which the IGBT 100 and the control circuit 150 are mounted.

The IGBT 100 includes a transistor region. 100a, a gate and a backside gate electrode pad 100c. The backside gate electrode pad 100c is located on the opposite surface semiconductor to the frontside gate electrode pad 100b.

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The control circuit **150** controls the IGBT **100**. The control circuit **150** is a gate driver circuit. The gate driver circuit controls voltages applied to the frontside gate electrode pad **100b** and the backside gate electrode pad **100c**. The gate driver circuit controls the first gate voltage (Vg1) applied to the frontside gate electrode **51** and the second gate voltage (Vg2) applied to the backside gate electrode **52**.

The gate driver circuit controls the first gate voltage (Vg1) and the second gate voltage (Vg2) so that a negative voltage is applied to the backside gate electrode **52** when a turn-on voltage (Von) is applied to the frontside gate electrode **51**.

As described above, according to the fifth embodiment, it is possible to realize a semiconductor circuit capable of reducing the steady loss and the turn-off loss.

In the first to fourth embodiments, a case where the semiconductor layer is single crystal silicon has been described as an example, but the semiconductor layer is not limited to the single crystal silicon. For example, other single crystal semiconductors such as a single crystal silicon carbide may be used.

In the first, second, and fourth embodiments, a case where both the frontside gate trench **21** and the backside gate trench **22** have a stripe shape has been described as an example, but the shapes of the frontside gate trench **21** and the backside gate trench **22** are not limited to the stripe shape. For example, one or both of the frontside gate trench **21** and the backside gate trench **22** may have a shape other than the stripe shape such as a polygonal shape.

In the first to fifth embodiments, a case where the first conductivity type is p-type and the second conductivity type is n-type has been described as an example, but the first conductivity type may also be n-type, and the second conductivity type may also be p-type. In a case where the first conductivity type is n-type and the second conductivity type is p-type, for example, the second voltage (V2) is a positive voltage.

In the first to fourth embodiments, a case where the distance between the buffer region **30** and the base region **36** is longer than the distance between the p-type floating region **34** and the base region **36** has been described as an example, but the distance between the buffer region **30** and the base region **36** may also be allowed to be shorter than the distance between the p-type floating region **34** and the base region **36**. In this case, the p-type floating region **34** is surrounded by the buffer region **30**.

In the fifth embodiment, a case where the semiconductor device is the semiconductor device according to the first embodiment has been described as an example, but the semiconductor device may be the semiconductor device according to the first to fourth embodiments.

While certain embodiments have been described, these embodiments have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the inventions. Indeed, semiconductor devices and semiconductor circuits described herein may be embodied in a variety of other forms; furthermore, various omissions, substitutions and changes in the form of the devices and methods described herein may be made without departing from the spirit of the inventions. The accompanying claims and their equivalents are intended to cover such forms or modifications as would fall within the scope and spirit of the inventions.

What is claimed is:

**1.** A semiconductor device comprising:

a semiconductor layer including a first plane and a second plane facing the first plane, the semiconductor layer including:

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at least one first trench provided on a side of the first plane;

at least one second trench provided on a side of the second plane;

a first semiconductor region of a first conductivity type being in contact with the second plane;

a second semiconductor region of a second conductivity type provided between the first semiconductor region and the first plane;

a third semiconductor region of the first conductivity type provided between the second semiconductor region and the first plane;

a fourth semiconductor region of the second conductivity type provided between the third semiconductor region, and the first plane; and

a fifth semiconductor region of the first conductivity type provided between the at least one second trench and the third semiconductor region, being separated from the third semiconductor region and the first semiconductor region, and being in contact with the at least one second trench;

a first gate electrode provided in the at least one first trench;

a first gate insulating film provided between the first gate electrode and the second semiconductor region, between the first gate electrode and the third semiconductor region, and between the first gate electrode and the fourth semiconductor region;

a second gate electrode provided in the at least one second trench;

a second gate insulating film provided between the second gate electrode and the first semiconductor region, and between the second gate electrode and the fifth semiconductor region;

a first electrode provided on the side of the first plane of the semiconductor layer and being electrically connected to the fourth semiconductor region; and

a second electrode provided on the side of the second plane of the semiconductor layer and being electrically connected to the first semiconductor region.

**2.** The semiconductor device according to claim **1**, wherein the semiconductor layer further includes a sixth semiconductor region of the second conductivity type being in contact with the second plane and being electrically connected to the second electrode.

**3.** The semiconductor device according to claim **1**, wherein the at least one first trench extends on the first plane in a first direction parallel to the first plane, and wherein the at least one second trench extends on the second plane in a second direction parallel to the first plane and perpendicular to the first direction.

**4.** The semiconductor device according to claim **1**, wherein the semiconductor layer further includes at least one third trench provided on the side of the first plane, and

wherein the semiconductor device further comprises:  
a conductive layer provided in the at least one third trench and being electrically connected to the first electrode; and  
an insulating film provided between the conductive layer and the second semiconductor region and between the conductive layer and the third semiconductor region.

**5.** The semiconductor device according to claim **1**, wherein the semiconductor layer further includes a seventh semiconductor region of the second conductivity type provided between the first semiconductor region and the second semiconductor region and having a second conductivity type

impurity concentration higher than a second conductivity type impurity concentration of the second semiconductor region.

6. The semiconductor device according to claim 5, wherein the fifth semiconductor region is surrounded by the seventh semiconductor region. 5

7. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein a second conductivity type impurity concentration of the fifth semiconductor region is higher than a second conductivity type impurity concentration of the third semiconductor region. 10

8. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor region is in contact with the at least one second trench.

9. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one first trench includes a plurality of first trenches, the at least one second trench includes a plurality of second trenches, a pitch of the second trenches in the second direction is larger than a pitch of the first trenches in the second direction. 15 20

10. A semiconductor circuit comprising:

the semiconductor device according to claim 1; and

a control circuit controlling the semiconductor device so

that, when a turn-on voltage is applied to the first gate electrode, a negative voltage is applied to the second gate electrode in a case where the first conductivity type is p-type, and a positive voltage is applied to the second gate electrode in a case where the first conductivity type is n-type. 25 30

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